

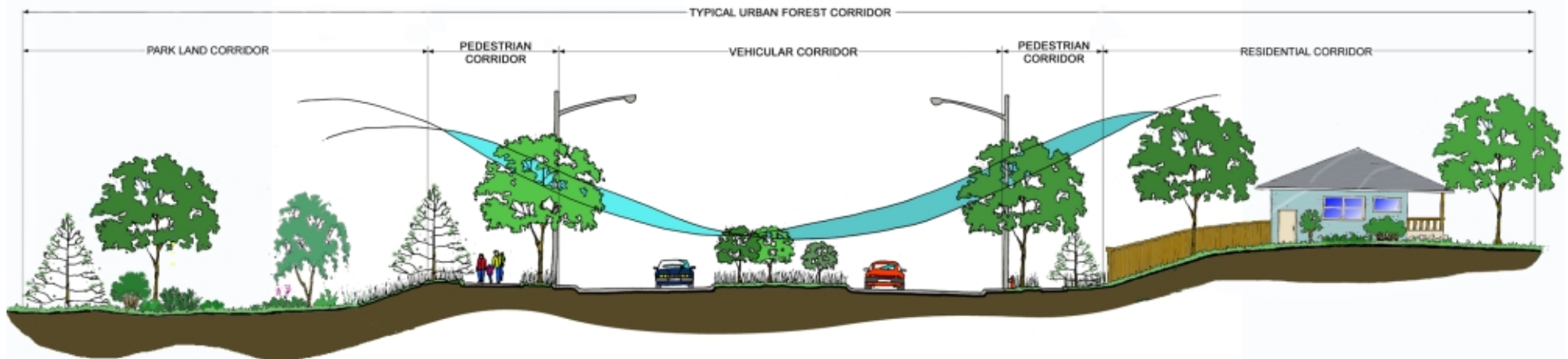
URBAN FOREST

The collections of trees and other woody plants that have been planted or grow naturally within the developed limits of the communities located in Lancaster County.



IMPORTANCE:

- It provides shade
- It provides cooling and moderation of humidity
- It reduces reflective glare
- It provides habitat for wildlife suited to the urban environment
- It provides physical structure for developing outdoor space
- It provides cultural and social value
- It provides historical value and a tie to the past
- Large, aged, or unique specimens provide educational, historical and social references in the county
- It provides soil stabilization and protection
- It enhances the legibility, visual character, identity, and sense of place of a community
- It provides protection from the wind
- It provides diversity of plant material
- It provides aesthetic value



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LEGEND



PARK LAND



STREET TREES



HUMAN IMPACT/THREAT:

- The cost to sustain and maintain the urban forest is significant and cannot be eliminated without detrimental consequences
- Microclimate and cultural condition changes due to urbanization such as increased warming, modified soils, pollutants, etc. increase the risk of disease and other stresses
- A lack of understanding exists among some designers and builders regarding the measures required in order to preserve existing plants from damage
- A gradual succession from high quality, native species to lower quality, “weedy” species is sometimes observed over time in urban areas due to the difficult cultural conditions
- Introduction of exotic ornamental species increase maintenance problems



PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

- Street tree and other linear urban plantings encourage pedestrian movement
- Diversity of species should be encouraged
- Committed resources must be continued in order to manage a forest resource in a historical prairie environment
- The urban forest is valued as a community and cultural resource and must be accounted for in future planning directives
- The extension of the urban forest should be integrated with the process of extending development activity in the urban areas of the county